

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 07250 131506Z

47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ABF-01 A-01 /015 W

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R 131335Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4656

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 7250

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, MARR, MMOL

SUBJECT: GAO REQUEST FOR CLASSIFIED INFORMATION ON BELGIAN  
ARMED FORCES

REFS: A) BRUSSELS 6869; B) STATE 182159

1. INFO CONTAINED REF B WAS PASSED BY MAAG TO GAO, MR. FOWLER,  
HOWEVER GAO DECIDED TO SEND TEAM TO BRUSSELS ANYWAY.  
EMBASSY APPROVED VISIT AND MAAG RECEIVED GAO REPS ON AUGUST 8.

2. FOLLOWING FYI IS SUBSTANTIVE PART OF MAAG MESSAGE  
REPORTING VISIT SENT USCINCEUR AND USNATO AUGUST 12:  
0900, 8 AUG 75 . MR ROBERT C. RUSSELL AND MR JONATHAN  
D. CROWDER MET WITH COL MILLER, CMAAG AND COL LYNCH, CHARSEC.  
COL MILLER ADVISED GAO OF SECSTATE AND USCINCEUR GUIDANCE  
REFS D & E. CMAAG FURTHER INFORMED GAO TEAM THAT BASED ON  
GUIDNACE AND FACT, THAT MAAG DATA ON BELGIAN ARMY FORCE  
STRUCTURE WAS DERIVED FROM BELGIAN DPQ, CLASSIFIED NATO  
SECRET, IT COULD NOT BE VIEWED OR RELEASED. CMAAG RECOMMENDED  
GAO FOL SECSTATE GUIDANCE AND OBTAIN DATA FROM NATO REGISTRY  
IN WASHINGTON. CMAAG THEN OFFERED GAO TEAM OPPORTUNITY TO  
MEET WITH ARMY SECTION TO DISCUSS UNCLAS/CLASS INFO DERIVED  
FROM US SOURCES.

B. 0930-1045 HOURS, GAO TEAM MET WITH COL LYNCH AND LTC  
MELANSON, CH AND DEP CH ARMY SEC RESPECTIVELY. HIGHLIGHTS  
OF QUESTIONS & ANSWERS FROM MEMORY FOLLOW:

(1) Q. COULD YOU OUTLINE THE ORGANIZATION OF BELGIAN ARMY  
FROM CORPS DOWN THROUGH PLATOON? A. BELGIAN DPQ AT NATO  
REGISTRY HAS COMPLETE DETAILS ON ORGANIZATION, FORCE

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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 07250 131506Z

STRUCTURE, PERSONNEL STRENGTHS, EQUIPMENT AND PLANNED

PROCUREMENT OF WEAPONS SYSTEMS FROM 1974-79.

(2) Q. WHAT TYPE AND QUANTITY OF TANKS AND ANTITANKS WEAPONS DO THEY HAVE? A. DETAILS ARE CONTAINED IN DPQ; HOWEVER ITS GENERAL KNOWLEDGE THAT THE BELGIAN ARMY IS EQUIPPED WITH THE LEOPARD. ANTI-TANK WEAPONS INCLUDE LAW AND MILAN RECENTLY PROCURED. BELGIAN ARMY HAS NOT DECIDED ON LONG RANGE ANTI-TANK MSL SYSTEM. IT WILL PROBABLY BE HOT OR TOW FOR GROUND AND HELO EMPLOYMENT. THE NUMBER & TYPE OF ITEMS PROCURED IN EACH CASE DEPENDS ON FUNDING APPROVED BY GOB AND ECONOMIC COMPENSATION OFFERED BY FOREIGN GOVERNMENT. FORCE STRUCTURE IS GENERALLY DRIVEN BY THIS FACT.

(3) Q. WHAT MIX OF TANK-ANTITANK WEAPONS DOES BELGIAN ARMY HAVE? A. WE ARE NOT SURE IF THEY HAVE ANY FORMULA ON MIX; BUT WOULD GUESS THAT THEY MAY BE INFLUENCED BY THE ANTI-ARMOR BRIEFING GIVEN TO NATO AND BELGIAN ARMY STAFF BY DR. PAYNE, OSA (OPNS RESEARCH) AND BG YOUREE J5, JCS.

5. FOLLOWING THE ABOVE, GAO TEAM REQUESTED AND WAS PROVIDED COPIES OF REFS C, D & EM THEY ADVISED MAAG THAT THEY WOULD SEEK FURTHER INFO IN WASH. AND DEPARTED IN A CONGENIAL MOOD."

RENNER

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## Message Attributes

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